

REMARKS

The claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1-27. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of claim amendments.

35 U.S.C. §103

CLAIMS 1-9 and 19-24

Claims 1-9 and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr, U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,976 (hereinafter, Sehr) in view of Johnson et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,253,194 (hereinafter, Johnson). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

A method of providing access to information comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a call from an application program, said call specifying a user identifier and a requested set of information of a plurality of sets of information, wherein said set of requested information comprises a plurality of fields and wherein said fields describe information distributed over a plurality of databases;

b) determining the location of said requested information corresponding to said user identifier by accessing a stored mapping of said fields to said databases;

c) using said user identifier, retrieving information corresponding to a first of said plurality of fields from a first of said plurality of databases;

d) using said user identifier, retrieving information corresponding to a second of said plurality of fields from a second of said plurality of databases; and

e) providing said set of information to said application program.

Amended Claim 1 recites that the call from the application contains a requested set of information, which comprises a plurality of fields describing information distributed over a plurality of databases. Based on a stored mapping of fields to databases, the location of the requested information is determined. Thus, the application program does not pass in the fields, which are used to locate the information. It is respectfully asserted that neither Sehr nor Johnson, alone or in combination, teach or suggest these claimed limitations.

Sehr discloses that information may be communicated between and among various databases and the portable passenger card (col. 13, lines 39-44). However, Applicants do not understand Sehr to teach or suggest an application program being provided information stored on various databases based on the fields, without the application even specifying the fields. In contrast, Sehr discloses that a data element can be located (found) via the data field section or data record number, as well as the corresponding data label or addressing pointer (col. 19, line 66 – col. 20, line 2). Applicants submit that Sehr does not disclose or suggest the claimed limitations of providing to an application program without the application program specifying the field which is mapped to the data location. Johnson fails to rectify this deficit, as Johnson does not teach or suggest this claimed limitation. Therefore, Claim 1 is not rendered obvious over Sehr in view of Johnson. As such, allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully submitted.

Claim 4 recites:

The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

f) updating a first of said plurality of fields in said set of said information by writing information to a first of said plurality of databases.

Claim 6 recites:

The method of Claim 4 wherein said update is based upon monitoring activity of a user of said application program, said activity being related to said information.

Claim 6 further limits Claim 4 to recite that one of the fields is updated by writing to a database, based upon monitoring the user's activity. It is respectfully asserted that neither Sehr nor Johnson, alone or in combination, teach or suggest this claimed limitation.

Sehr discloses that information may be retrieved based on monitoring a passenger. However, Sehr fails to teach or suggest updating a database, based on monitoring the user's activity, as claimed. Further, Johnson fails to cure this deficiency, as Johnson does not teach or suggest this claimed limitation. Therefore, Claim 6 is not rendered obvious over Sehr in view of Johnson. As such, allowance of Claim 6 is respectfully submitted.

Claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from Claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the above rationale. As such, allowance of Claims 2-5 and 7-9 is earnestly solicited.

Amended Claim 19 recites similar limitations as discussed with respect to Claim 1. For the reasons discussed in the response to Claim 1, allowance of Claim 19 is respectfully submitted.

Claims 20-24 depend from Claim 19, which is believed to be allowable for the above rationale. As such, allowance of Claims 20-24 is earnestly solicited.

CLAIMS 10-18 and 25-27

Claims 10-18 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of Sarkar, U.S. Pat. No. 6,418,448 (hereinafter Sarkar). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 recites, in part:

said program operable to logically map a plurality of fields of said information into a plurality of logical collections of said information, wherein at least one said logical collections comprise a plurality of said fields of said information;

...

said program further operable to physically map said plurality of fields of said information to said plurality of databases, wherein said program is operable to determine which of said plurality of databases contain at least a first of said plurality of fields of said information corresponding to said first of said plurality of logical collections of said information for said first of said plurality of users.

Claim 10 recites that the program is able to logically map fields to logical collections and to physically map the fields to databases. It is respectfully asserted that neither Sehr nor Sarkar, alone or in combination, teach or suggest these limitations in the claimed fashion.

In order to better organize the user information, embodiments of the present invention logically map fields into logical collections of data. For example, an

embodiment organizes information from a user record into views. A view is a grouping of logically related data (e.g., user information). Applications may request one or more views (e.g., logical collections of user information), which a profile repository program will access and return. Embodiments also map the fields to databases. For example, Figure 3 illustrates an embodiment of a mapping of the views to the physical locations of the user information. Each view (e.g., logical collection of user information) comprises a number of fields of user information, in this embodiment. However, the data may be organized in a different way on databases than it is organized in the views. Embodiments of the present invention keep track of the physical location of each field. In this fashion, the application programs do not have to, which vastly simplifies programming at that level.

The rejection concedes that Sehr does not disclose the logical or the physical mapping. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Sehr does not teach or suggest logically or physically mapping a plurality of fields of said information into a plurality of logical collections of said information, as claimed.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Sarkar does not teach or suggest the combination of logically mapping a plurality of fields of said information into a plurality of logical collections of said information and physically mapping said plurality of fields of said information to said plurality of databases, as claimed.

Sarkar discloses a way to partition a logical schema into one or more schemas (Fig. 6, Fig. 19). Figure 6 of Sarkar shows two relational database schemas comprising tables, along with business logic. Uniform Resource Indicators (URI) point from some, though not all, of the data in the first schema to the second schema. However, Sarkar fails to provide both the logical and physical mapping, as claimed. In contrast, Sarkar shows at best a mapping from elements on one database to another database. Sarkar fails to teach or suggest a logical mapping between the fields and the logical collections of information, as claimed. Because Sarkar fails to show the combination of logical and physical mapping and because Sehr shows neither a logical and physical mapping, Claim 10 is not rendered obvious over Sehr in light of Sarkar.

Claims 11-18 depend from Claim 10, which is believed to be allowable for the above rationale. As such, allowance of Claims 10-18 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 25 recites similar limitations as Claim 10. For the reasons discussed in the response to Claim 10, allowance of Claim 25 is respectfully submitted.

Claims 26-27 depend from Claim 25, which is believed to be allowable for the above rationale. As such, allowance of Claims 26-27 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the arguments and amendments presented

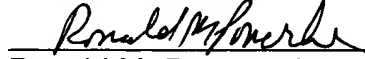
above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-27 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-27 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant amendment and response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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